(b) the reasons for disappearance of tigers from Panna; whether killing of tigers took place by way of inducements by Government enforcement agencies and non-governmental organizations to poachers and smugglers for luring them into a trap in Panna, which led to disappearance of tigers;

(c) the details of administrative action taken against senior officials in charge of Panna forests; and

(d) whether senior forest officials of Panna reported about disappearance of tigers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Details of tiger estimation relating to the Panna Tiger Reserve since 1995, as reported by the State in the All India tiger estimation using the old pugmark method, are given in the statement (*See* below). The findings of the All India tiger estimation (2008) using the refined methodology as approved by the Tiger Task Force indicate that the Panna Tiger Reserve and its surround sustained 24 (±1 standard error range 15-32) tigers. This new methodology is based on spatial occupancy of tigers and sampling such forests using camera traps in a statistical framework, which is not comparable to the earlier total count using pugmarks. Tigers have become locally extinct in Panna largely due to poaching as pointed out in the report of the Special Investigating Team constituted for ascertaining the causative factors for disappearance of tigers from the Panna Tiger Reserve. At present, the reserve has only two translocated tigresses. There are no reports of inducements by Government enforcement agencies / non-governmental organizations for luring poachers/smugglers for trapping tigers, leading to their disappearance.

(c) and (d) The disappearance of tigers from Panna was confirmed through an assessment done by the Wildlife Institute of India. The State Government has been advised to fix responsibility on erring officials as pointed out in the report of the Special Investigating Team, constituted for ascertaining the causative factors for disappearance of tigers from the Panna Tiger Reserve, for disciplinary action.

Statement

Population of tigers in the Panna Tiger Reserve as reported by the State in the All India Tiger Estimation using the old methodology

S.No.	Name of Reserve	1972	1979	1984	1989	1993	1995	1997	2001-2002
1.	Panna (Madhya Pradesh)	-	-	-	-	25	22	22	31

Control on Poaching of Wildlife

905. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether state-of-the-art techniques are being utilized to effectively control the poaching of wildlife;

(b) if so, whether these techniques are adequate to find the origin of smuggled animal parts, develop intelligence networks, track traders and also to use automatic weapons in the war against rampant poaching;

(c) the reasons for which the incidents of poaching are increasing; and

(d) the percentage of conviction relating to poachers arrested during 2005, 2006 and 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) A number of initiatives have been taken by the Ministry to control effectively the poaching of wildlife. One of the latest initiative is setting up of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau with the mandate of collection and collation of intelligence related to organized wildlife crime, coordination with State Governments and other authorities in connection with the enforcement of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, developing infrastructure and capacity building for scientific and professional investigation into wildlife crimes and assist State Governments to ensure success in prosecutions related to wildlife crimes. Financial assistance to State/UTs Governments is also provided under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes by the Ministry for conservation of wildlife. A special Tiger Protection Force has also been set up to control the poaching of tiger.

So far as technique to find origin of smuggled animal part is concerned, it is at research and development stage for tiger.

(c) Main reason of poaching of wild animals is thriving international market outside India especially with respect to tiger, leopard and rhino products. It is further aggravated due to man-animal conflict.

(d) Information is being collected and will be laid in the Table of the House.

River cleaning programme

906. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating a plan for river cleaning programme;

(b) if so, by when it is expected to be implemented and at what cost;

(c) which rivers are expected to be cleaned in the process, State-wise;

(d) whether it would be a time-bound programme; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) is being implemented by the Central Government jointly with the State Governments on a cost-sharing basis. The pollution abatement works under NRCP presently cover identified polluted stretches of 37 major rivers in 166 towns spread over 20 States in the country. The State-wise details